No. 4.

# CONTINUATION

OF

# LETTERS

FROM

# SUSSEX EMIGRANTS,

IN

# UPPER CANADA,

FOR

# 1833.

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PETWORTH:
PRINTED AND SOLD BY JOHN PHILLIPS,
AND SOLD ALSO BY LONGMAN AND CO., LONDON.
PRICE TWO PENCE.

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*Western Mercury, Hamilton, June 27th. 1833.*

"*Emigration.*—On the 27th. ult. two families, consisting of eighteen individuals, were provided with the means of emigrating to Canada, by the parish of Debden. The circumstances attending their departure caused the deepest sympathy for them in the neighbourhood where they lived, and must excite feelings of compassion in the breast of every lover of his country. The fathers of the two families were agricultural labourers, greatly respected for their sober and industrious habits. Each had served the same master upwards of twenty years, and so generally was their determination to leave the country regretted, that their stay was entreated by all who knew them. They however refused to listen to all entreaties, and determined to quit their native land, assigning as a reason that at that time twenty or thirty young men were walking about in the parish in a state of idleness, not being able to find employment, and they therefore saw no prospect of a livelihood for their children.

But extraordinary as this condition of the labouring population is, the blindness and apathy of the Legislature to its dangers is more extraordinary still. And it is the more incomprehensible that the evil is allowed to continue and to increase from year to year, when the remedy, or at least the alleviation of it is so obvious and easy. The population is too abundant for the present circumstances of the country.—Why not remove the surplus to a part of the British dominions where population is wanted; where every man with arms and legs is certain of being able to produce more than he can consume? The plain and obvious remedy for the evil of twenty or thirty young men walking about unemployed in a single parish, is to place those productive labourers where their labor is wanted. But the expense of such removal, how is that to be got over? Why, in the same way as the expense of maintaining them here is got over. They *are* maintained, and they *do* cost money. The Poor's Rate of England amounts to between seven and eight millions yearly. Much of this, no doubt, is for the support of the aged and the infirm, who would derive no advantage from emigration; but the revenue expended in the support of those able and *willing* to work, would be amply sufficient to enable the Legislature to form an extensive plan of emigration which would relieve the English parishes from their surplus laborers. Those who remained would be better off, while those

June 25th. 1833.

Dear and honoured Father,

I have just received your letter, and am very glad to hear that you are well and hearty. Your letter was dated 10th. March, and I had it 19th. June. I have the pleasure to say, that I am quite well and hearty, never better in my life. Emma is quite well, and grown very much; so that you would not know her; she have an excellent place: the people are quite genteel folks; they have no child, and they takes her as their own child; and they could not be fonder of her if she was their own; and they are bringing her up to learning. Charles is well, and grown very fat, and can talk Dutch as well as any of them. I have put him apprentice to a tanner, but he goes to school, and his master will, I have no doubt but he will, make him a good scholar: they are Dutch family: he is bound for 14 years. I have lived with them 8 months, and they seem very good people: they are to board, lodge, wash, mend, and find him in clothes and every thing; and when his time is out, he is to have £17. 10s. currency; that is, 70 dollars, and a new suit of clothes from top to bottom: he has a bad foot, something come of itself, but [I] am in hopes it will soon get better. Sarah is with a master builder, and cabinet maker: they are quite genteel folks: they have no child, so they are very fond of her: they sends her to school, and she is drest like some gentleman's daughter: she is quite well, and looks well. Sarah and Emma are at Galt, and Charles is only 4 miles west of Galt; and I have worked ever since I have been [here] just around them.* Now I will answer your request concerning my poor wife and child, and how she was buried: my child was taken to a Wesleyan meeting house or chapel, where there is a man appointed to perform the office of the burial service, when he delivered an excellent address; after this it was taken to the burying ground, and interred in its grave, and concluded with prayer. In the same manner, my wife was taken in a waggon to the same chapel, where the man gave a most affectionate address on the uncertainty of life:

* On comparing this letter with those given in p. 18 and p. 45 of the Sussex letters of 1832, it will be seen that the kindness shewn to these children, on the death of their mother, was not a mere feeling of the moment, but has been steadily persevered in.

T. S.

then conveyed to the church yard, this being the way of all living, to remain until the great rising day: the service being ended with a most solemn and appropriate prayer concluded. I think enough hath been said to satisfy you on this subject. I would just say that William Davis was very sick, so he could not come with us any further than Montreal; but Penfold took him to Prescot, there left him in the hospital; since that he got better and came to Hambleton, and is now married to an Indian woman, a black: she has two hundred acres of land, and a grist mill. I wish you would send me word where James Johnson is, and what they did to him, because he did not come out with us, to Canada: say whether uncle John ever had my letter. I do think it very hard that he have not wrote to me: I should think that they all (I mean all my uncles and aunts and cousins) would join and pay for the letters for you, when by doing this they will shew their love to me by so doing. I should be glad to hear from you all as often as you can. I will now give you all the account I can of the country and weather: the country is very little different from England, only colder, and hotter, and the winter longer, and sharper; and the summer very short, only 3 months at the most: the snow came November the 1st. and the last April 5th. Frost in August ½ an inch thick, and on the 22nd. June, very frosty nights and hot days. Jesse Penfold, James Rapson, Benjamin Tribe, and I, went and seen Joseph Kinshott's widow, and Charlotte Tribe as was: they are all well; and Mrs. Kinshott keeps a school in Blenheim: she have 1½ dollar per week, and most provisions found. We heard that there were many more coming out this spring, should be glad if you would send word who is coming, and when they set sail, and whether they are coming by Quebec. My best respects to old Mr. Mills, and James Etherington and his wife, may God bless them all; but I should be glad to see them: and tell my old work mates, that we do not do here as they do in England. I am a mowing grass, but we do not sit under the hedge to eat a bit of bread and cheese, but go in doors, and have the best that the country affords. Tell old Jesse Penfold, that his son Jesse, with his family, are all well. Old Mrs. Tribe and her family are all well. Jesse Penfold desires that you would tell John Mann that he is a fool that he did not come. So no more from your affectionate son,

THOMAS ADSETT.

Direct to me Galt, Dumfries, Gore, U. C.

The prices of provisions are as follows: flour 4 dollars per barrel, pork 4d. lb., butter 6½d. lb., beef 3½d. lb. mutton 1¼ dollar for a sheep, whisky 2s. per gallon, spirits 5s. 6d. per gallon brandy and wine, beer 7½. per quart, and cider the same.

Of work: labourers 3s. 3d. per day, and board and whisky; tradesmen from 5s. to 7s. per day, with board and whisky. Write as soon as possible, and fill it up as full as possible.

Wrote by James Rapson: his wife and family are all well.

To Thomas Adsett,
Northchapel, near Petworth, Sussex, England.

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*From James Rapson, (Sawyer,) who went from Lodsworth, Sussex, in* 1832.

Galt, July 9th. 1833.

Dear Father,

I have the pleasure to say, that my dear brothers, and sisters, arrived here the 5th. July, all well and hearty; with John White, and wife, and child; John Dearling, his wife, and all his children; George Trussler, his wife, and all his children; but G. Trussler have had great accidents with two of his children. William's wife was put to bed on the 12th. of May, (they are all with us) very good time, and was quite well; but the child lived only two days; but as they will write within a week, I shall say nothing more, only that they came all unexpectedly, as I have not had a letter for a long time; nor knew any thing of it, till I saw William coming, near a quarter of a mile before he came to our house; and he held up his hat. I knew him, but I could not believe my eyes for some time; but I was highly pleased to see them, and especially, as they are all so well. I think that William, Rhoda, and Thomas, look better than ever I saw them. George and Maria are both well, and have enjoyed themselves well; their love to all, and will write to them in 5 or 6 days; but they wish you to let them see this. They have had quite a comfortable passage, and are all enjoying themselves much better than any one could expect. I must now tell you that we are all quite hearty; and I may say that I am, and have been, better for the last 9 months, than ever I have been for many years. You must excuse this short letter, as I am so busy; it is now one o'clock. They was hurried through Montreal, so that they could not go to the

post office. The weather is not so hot as it was last summer, and much healthier than with you. Sarah is not strong yet, but quite well, thank God. Hannah is out still, quite hearty: she came here to day, and saw them all, quite pleased. Mary is with us. Philip, Isaac, and Rhoda, with the little one, are all well. I do not know how to express my thanks to the gentlemen that have sent them out so honorably; and that they provided for them; for I think they came out like gentlefolks. I have received a letter from the Rev. Mr. Sockett, and as soon as I can get time, I will write to him. I am very thankful to him for his kindness. Remember me to Mr. Chrippes, and to all friends: may the blessing of God rest on them all, through life, and for ever, is the sincere prayer of J. R.

Dear Father, I should not have wrote you such a letter as this, only I was forced: you would not have their letters, as they could not have time to go to the post themselves: they wrote a letter to you, and to George's mother, and sent them to the post as they came; and I was afraid that they did not put them in; and as they will write by next Tuesday, I shall say no more. We sends our united love to you all. Your affectionate son,

JAMES RAPSON.

To Philip Rapson,
Lodsworth, near Petworth, Sussex,
England.

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July 13th. 1833.

Dear Father and Mother,

June 23rd. 9 miles from Montreal, staid there all day Sunday, very hot. 24th. started on at 4 o'clock in the morning. 25th, very wet in an open boat; wet through all day; men all obliged to walk; the sailors and captain very cross, threatened us very much. 26th. told Captain Hale of it, so he let all the women and children go in the steamer, and the men in the boat. 27th. in the boat, had 4 oxen to draw us, sometimes had 2 horses. 28th. came to Prescot, staid in the storehouse all night. 29th. went on board a steamer, by the name of the *United Kingdom*, a most beautiful thing it was. 30th. all well, came to Kingston: it is as large a town as Chichester: houses are mostly built of stone: all goods are as cheap as in England. 31st. a thunder storm

about 12 o'clock in the night, our beds were spread on deck, and we were all in bed: we got wet through, and our beds soaked with rain. In the morning, George Trusler's little James was getting some water, and the board gave way, and he fell over: he was about 11 years old: they stopped the steamer and let down the boat, but they could not get him: it was the most distressing sight I ever saw: they said they could see him for 200 yards: he had his caul in his pocket: his mother has not been well since; blessed be the Lord he brought us safe and well to land. July 1st. came to York, our things all out exposed to the rain. * * *

*(The passage omitted contains some remarks affecting the private character of an individual.)* *T. S.*

3rd. went in a schooner: 4th. came to Hamilton, slept in a stable. 5th. hired 3 waggons, gave 8 dollars a waggon for families. Wm. and George went on, and James came to meet us, we got here just as it was dark, all unexpected, we were glad to see them all looking so well: met the children about a mile from home, without any shoes or stockings, they all go so here. Old Mrs. Tribe looks better, I think, than ever I saw her. The next day, poor Hannah came in, did not know that we were here, she looked very hard, and at last begun crying before she could speak. Mrs. Evans came to day, she looks very thin, but she expects to be confined very soon. 15th. James has been to Hamilton, and agreed for 200 acres of land for us, so will part it in 4 lots, they are all gone this morning to work on it, to put up houses and clear. Nothing to be paid for three years. It seems dismal at first, but I think we shall like it after a bit. Tell aunt Madgwick that Isaac Berry is somewhere near York, little George died when they got to York. Harriet White, the young woman that came out with us, staid at York. Tom is with James, he seems to like it very much; he has been to work with Richard Tribe, a chopping; he will write as soon as he can, but he will be busy now with James and the rest. I had the letter from Jane, at Portsmouth, with the half sovereign for Tom. We are all well, except John, who has been bad ever since we have been here. I have been to a doctor, he gave me some powders for him to take every night and morning, and to keep his head wet with whisky; he said it was the sun fever in his head. Fanny has been poorly, but she is got better. George has been poorly, but he is quite well now; he was not the least sea sick all the way ever, nor Tom but very little. Old Mrs. Tribe was very

much hurt because Robert was not come with us, but she hopes he will come next year. I shall write to George's mother within a week, so you will hear how John is, I think he is rather better; I hope, if it please God, he will be well when I write. George Trusler has took a house and land, and is gone to it: his brother John went to Adelaide. Sarah sends her love to all, and is very glad with what mother and Ruth sent her. Tell Jane she should write to me soon, and tell me her direction, and I will write to her. John Dearling went out one day, and met with a bear, but as soon as the bear saw him, he turned and run away: he, John, is going to have part of the ground: his wife is very poorly, he, and the children, is quite well. I am quite well, and have been ever since I left home, except sea sick, and so has Tom. They have seen several deer, and shot at them with their shot guns, but they have not killed any one yet: we have not had many pigeons yet. There is a fish pond on the ground we are going to, that covers 4 acres of ground, and full of fish. I think little John is a little better, but he is very much altered. As Wm. has wrote to George's friends I shall not write so soon, but Tom will write next time. We miss the beer and meat very much, as there is no getting any without we kill, ourselves. Here is strawberries and hurts by the bushel, that grow in the woods.

Dear father, I hope I shall have a letter from you soon. I wish I could get at some of our home doctors, there is none so good doctors here as Mr. Hicks: I have been to two doctors with little John, but he is not much better yet; he was quite well all the way over. I shall write to the Rev. T. Sockett soon. Give our love to all my brothers and sisters and all friends. Tell me, when you write, how mother's face is: James' face was bad the night we came, but is quite well now, thank God for it. So no more at present, from your affectionate son and daughter,

God bless you all. RHODA & GEORGE THAIR.

To PHILIP RAPSON, Lodsworth, Sussex.

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*From James and Hannah Tilley.*

Nelson, July 29th. 1833.

Dear Friends and Neighbours all,

This comes with our kind love to you all, hoping it will find you all in good health, as thank God it leaves us at present. Thank God we have arrived safe, after a long and

tedious voyage of 10 weeks, where I found my children enjoying good health, and plenty of work. We had a comfortable voyage, except a little sea-sickness. Captain Hale behaved very well to us, and did every thing in his power to make us comfortable; and we had plenty of every thing we could wish for. Mr. Sockett's words I found very true, for I believe every thing was done that laid in their power, to make us comfortable; and tell him, that the letter he wrote to Mary, she never received, which makes me think there must be some mistake at the Post Office; for if you send by New York, which is the best and quickest way, the letters should be paid to the water. If you enquire at the Post Office, you will know the rights of it; and when you answer this, let me know whether Mr. Sockett received the letter Mary sent to George's friends, after we had left England. You need not think the letters are forged which have been sent home; for I have shewed the book* to several that sent letters, and they say, that they are exactly as they sent them. Tell Mrs. Tanner I have heard of her daughters, and son-in-law, and they are all living in service, at Dundas, and doing well. Tell Mrs. Heather her son has got a situation with a gentleman, and is doing well. Tell Mrs. Burgess that I heard of her son, he was in York about a fortnight before we arrived there, and he was in good health; but I cannot say where he is now, for he left York to go and work at some other part of the country, but I did not hear where. Tell Mrs. Smith, that her brother was at York, to receive his pension, the day we arrived at York; but I did not see him: I heard he was living a little way below York, and I will send her letter to the Office, and put a line inside to let him know where I am. Thomas Lucas is not living with his wife, but she is doing very well. William Standing goes on about the same he did in England. Tell Mrs. Peacock I have not heard of Mrs. Daniells yet, but I intend going to Dundas as soon as I get a little settled; as I hear there is a great many of them there, and when I write again, I will send the whole particulars. I am living about nine miles from Dundas, and Tilly is at work for Government: him and George have taken a job of ditching, for 100 dollars, which is £25, and they make very good wages at it. I had two gentlemen offer to take Frederick, till he is twenty one, and give him 100 dollars; but Tilly would not let him go. Henry is at work with his father. Maria attended on the cabin passengers all the way over, and has been very lucky; she

* *Collection of Letters from Sussex Emigrants*, 1832.

has got a good place, for 12 guineas a year, at Brockville, about 200 miles below where we are. Tell Mrs. Matthews, at Bunker's Hill, if she had let her daughter come with me, I could have got her a place next door, for the same wages. Tell Mrs. Herrington, I took Mary Rice in the mess with me, and would have taken care of her all the way up the country, but she turned out so very bad; and I had to leave her at Montreal, with the Captain. William Edwards, from Sutton, came up the country with us, and has got a place a little way from us, for 10 dollars a month. With regard to the country, I will tell you as far as I am able. The country certainly is a very good one, and there is plenty of work for all England, if they were to come out here; but it is nothing like England. A man may get a good living by working hard, and enduring a great many hardships for the first year or two, till he can get his land cleared, and raise his own provisions: then they can go on a little more comfortable, and I think it would be folly, for persons who are doing comfortably at home, to come to Canada; but they that cannot do comfortably at home, they cannot change for the worse. There is one great evil, I am sorry to say, in this country; a great many write about the cheapness of whisky, but they say nothing about the evil of it: so I would not advise any, who are given to drink, to come to this country; for they will do worse here than at home; for a man has to live here by the work of his hands, and not the assistance of the parish, which they can do comfortably, if they are steady; but if they spend half their earnings in drink, and lose half their time in getting drunk, where is their living to come from? Besides injuring their health, and shortening their days: as I have heard most of them that died of the cholera last year, were persons given to drink; but I do not mean to say all. But, thank God, I have nothing of that in my family to trouble me. George has been very sickly since he has been here, and William has been very unfortunate in sawing for the steamboats: he is afraid he will not be paid his money. I had a misfortune and scalded my foot, on board of the ship, and have been lame ever since, but I am much better now. I do not mean to say but the country is a very good one, and a man may get a good living in it, but it does not altogether suit my feelings, for it is nothing like home; for there is no place near me where the gospel is preached, which makes me feel uncomfortable.

*(To be continued in No. 5.)*

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J. PHILLIPS, PRINTER.

who are enabled to emigrate, would be provided for. And all who were established in the British Canadas, would soon become consumers of British manufactures, and would abundantly repay indirectly, if they did not return directly, the cost of their removal."

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*Extract from the Kingston Chronicle, taken from the Montreal Gazette, July 20th, 1833.*

## RIDEAU CANAL.

The arrival of the steamboat *Rideau* last Sunday from Bytown, may be hailed as an earnest of the great advantages to be afforded by the canal whose name she bears. The delay which occurred in the progress of this vessel on her downward passage, has given currency to rumours that there is not water enough in the canal, and that there are many obstacles to its free navigation; these are best answered by an account of the voyage of the *Rideau*. She left Kingston a fortnight ago last Thursday, and on her way to Kingston Mills, she ran aground at a place called the "Shallows," in endeavouring to pass a raft, entirely occupying the channel, which is there very narrow. After lying here two days and a half, she got off, and passed Brewer's Mills: on Sunday morning, at nine o'clock, she met with some further delay, between Kingston and Brewer's Mills; but it was merely in consequence of a *temporary* cause,—the water being previously drawn off for the purpose of effecting some repairs, had not sufficiently risen at the time the *Rideau* passed. After these unpleasant delays at the commencement of her voyage, she proceeded without further hindrance to Bytown, [on the Ottawa] where she arrived on Tuesday afternoon. She left that place on her return late in the evening of Thursday, and reached Kingston on Sunday afternoon, without meeting with the slightest obstacle. Both on her downward and upward trip, she ascended the Tay river to Pike Falls, within six miles of Perth, and returning, crossed to the old Rideau Landing. A great deal of time was also lost in getting a Durham boat, through the different locks, (49 in number,) which the *Rideau* had in tow, both going and coming—the boats being obliged to pass through separately. Notwithstanding these causes of delay, it will be seen that the *Rideau* travelled a distance of 180 miles in two days and a half; and if, as we believe, the canal will continue to be available, there is no doubt the trip from here

to Bytown may be easily made in two days. The *Rideau* brought up seventy or eighty passengers.

We are informed by a gentleman who came passenger in the *Rideau*, that there are large quantities of produce at the foot of the canal, awaiting the means of transmission to this place; and we are confident, that this important thoroughfare for a rich and productive region will, if properly kept in order, be of invaluable use for the purposes of commerce, and of great utility as a means of communication. We have been given to understand, that the Montreal and Ottawa Steamboat Company have determined to send as much freight as possible by the Rideau Canal. In this they will undoubtedly be imitated by the many enterprising individuals who only await the results of present experiments, to cover the canal with produce.

The works throughout the line of the Canal are in better order than at any time previous, and the locks work with much facility. There is for the present, a sufficiency of water, as the progress of the *Rideau* has demonstrated—a boat drawing at least four feet. The channel at the Shallows, near which she was detained in her first effort, is now widening, under the direction of Capt. Bolton, R. E. We sincerely hope there will be no farther obstructions to the free navigation of the Canal.

Mr. Drummond's other new steamboat, the *Margaret*, is expected to join the *Rideau* in a few weeks. By the advertisement, our readers may learn that this last boat will now make her regular trips between this Port and Bytown. Success to her!

*Montreal Gazette, July 20th.* 1833.


THE STEAMBOAT RIDEAU

Will leave Kingston for Bytown every Monday, and Bytown for Kingston every Thursday, on the arrival of the steamboat *Shannon*.—For freight or passage, apply to the proprietor.

ROBERT DRUMMOND.

*Kingston, July 14th.* 1833.


*Montreal Gazette, July 20th.* 1833.


Wanted, to proceed to York, a young woman of unexceptionable character, who perfectly understands the Millinery and Dressmaking business.—Particulars may be known on application at this Office.—*May 20th.*


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J. PHILLIPS, PRINTER.